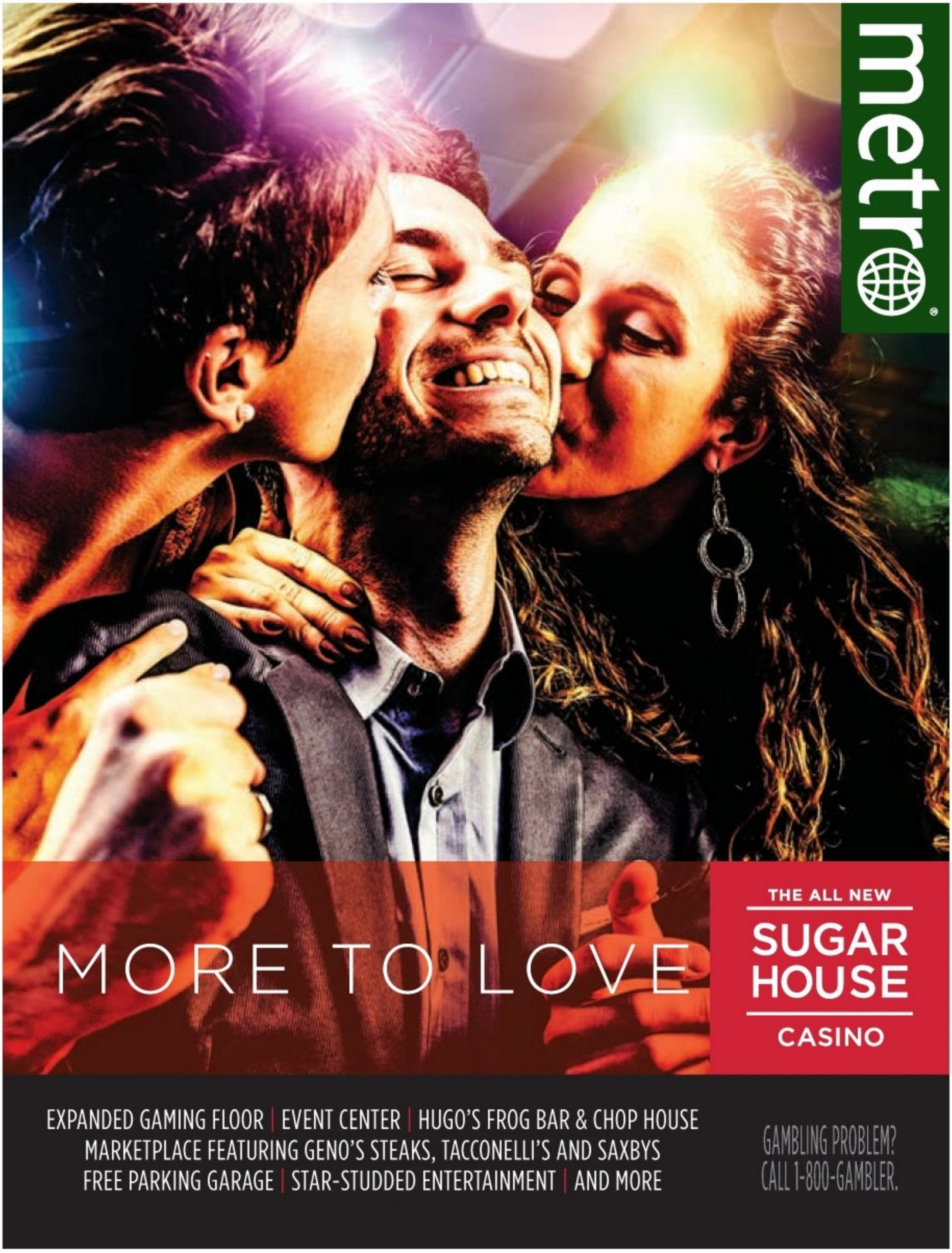
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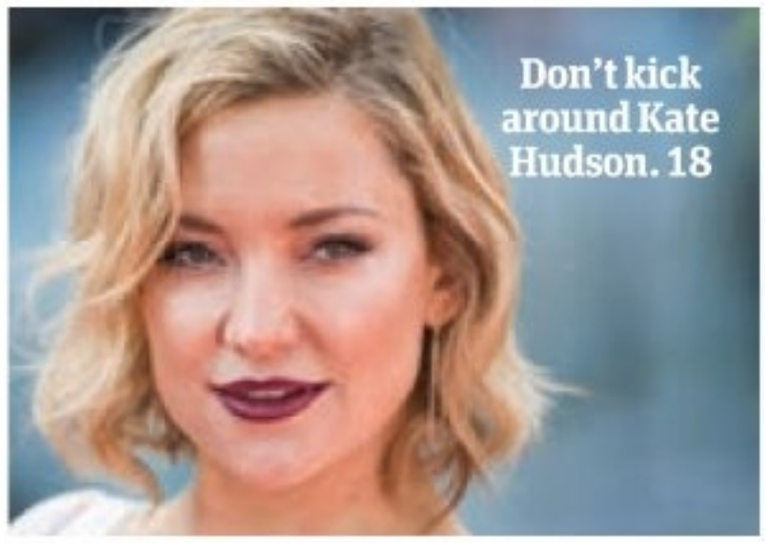
## OPERA ISN'T JUST FOR THE WEALTHY

Rising star Sarah Shafer tells us why opera is for everyone. 24



Don't kick around Kate Hudson. 18

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# FROM FARGO TO PHILLY

Will Eagles No. 2 overall pick Carson Wentz turn out to be the city's next big star? 27

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BILLY BECERRA & GETTY IMAGES

## 3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

### POLICE OBTAIN SEALED SEARCH WARRANT FOR PRINCE'S RESIDENCE



1 Authorities in Minnesota obtained a search warrant in connection with the death of pop star Prince and also won a court order to keep the findings secret, documents showed Thursday. Chief Deputy Jason Kamerud of the Carver County, Minnesota, sheriff's office cited intense media scrutiny surrounding the death of the 57-year-old performer in his request for a state district court judge to seal the warrant. Prince, whose full name was Prince Rogers Nelson, died at his home, a compound known as Paisley Park, in suburban Minneapolis on April 21. Authorities investigating the death found prescription opioid medication on him, according to news outlets CNN, the Minneapolis Star Tribune and others, which cited anonymous law enforcement sources. REUTERS

### US MILITARY PUNISHES 16 OVER 2015 AFGHAN HOSPITAL BOMBING

2 The U.S. military will announce Friday that has it taken disciplinary action against 16 service members over a deadly Oct. 3 air strike in Afghanistan that destroyed a hospital run by the international medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), U.S. officials tell Reuters. The disclosure of the nonjudicial punishments will come during the release of the findings of a U.S. military investigation into the incident, which will broadly conclude that the strike was a tragic mistake, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. REUTERS

### LAWSUIT AGAINST EX-US HOUSE SPEAKER HASTERT CAN PROCEED: JUDGE

3 A $1.8 million civil lawsuit filed by a victim of former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, convicted of a financial crime linked to sexual abuse of high school wrestlers decades ago, can proceed, an Illinois judge ruled Thursday. Hastert, 74, once one of the country's most powerful politicians, was sentenced Wednesday to 15 months in federal prison. During the sentencing hearing, Hastert acknowledged sexually abusing boys when he was a teacher and coach in his hometown of Yorkville, Illinois. The victim, identified as James Doe, filed the civil lawsuit in Kendall County Circuit Court in northeastern Illinois, claiming Hastert owes him the unpaid portion of a $3.5 million deal they verbally agreed to in 2008 to compensate him for decades of pain and suffering. REUTERS

Nellie Fitzpatrick, the city's director of LGBT affairs, applauds Kemar Jewel after he testifies before members of City Council. MICHELLE GUSTAFSON

# Once homeless, LGBT youths speak about experiences to Council

Members of the LGBT community went to City Council Thursday to testify at a hearing on youth homelessness.

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Before he was even 18, Kemar Jewel would fantasize about food to keep his stomach from growling. It would work, too.

He encountered physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse every day of his life until he was able to escape an ugly situation of homelessness on the streets of Philadelphia.

Jewel, 24, of North Philly, testified to this and much more at a joint hearing on youth homelessness before City Council's committees on Children and Youth and Housing, Neighborhood Development and the Homeless Thursday.

"Imagine going through all this simultaneously, while faking a smile so that people think you're OK," he said.

"Now imagine doing all this before you're even 18 years old. For a lot of youth in Philadelphia, they don't have to imagine any of this, because it's their reality every single day."

Jewel was one of several from the LGBT community who testified before the committees conveying the turmoil they live through not only as a gay person, but as a homeless youth, too.

A large part of Thursday's hearing seemed to focus on the needs of those in the LGBT community who are affected by homelessness, and Philadelphia's Director of LGBT Affairs, Nellie Fitzpatrick, brought Jewel and one other, Phantazia Washington, to the dais to share their stories.

"The reason I am here today is because I am one of those people," said Jewel.

"When I was 16 years old, I was kicked out of my home and forced into the streets of Philadelphia. I've been raped four times, and each one was worse than the last. But it all happened because I had nowhere safe to go. Even to this day, I'm still going to therapy for these traumatic events. The worst part is that I felt like I had no one to talk to — no family, no friends, no school peers. I felt alone. And it made my situation 10 times worse."

> *"The worst part is that I felt like I had no one to talk to — no family, no friends, no school peers. I felt alone. And it made my situation 10 times worse."*
>
> Jewel

Fitzpatrick said a disproportionate number of LGBT youth in the city experience homelessness. A 2015 study revealed that 54 percent of homeless youth identified as LGBT.

"Everyone serving youth through social service agencies, educational systems, the juvenile justice system, and the child welfare system must work together to make sure the right types of assistance are created and that youth are able to access and fully understand the available services," said Fitzpatrick.

"While I am confident you will hear of the enormous barriers faced by all homeless youth and the critical need for more services, shelters, beds and opportunities, it is imperative that this joint committee remain cognizant of the additional needs of, and barriers faced by, LGBT youth, as they are over half of the youth you are aiming to serve."

Councilwoman Helen Gym said she and her colleague, Councilman Allan Domb, were fully dedicated to seeing an expansion in the number of services to youth who are experiencing homelessness.

"Not five years down the road, not months and months later, but in the next fiscal year," she said.

"We know we can make this a priority for our city."

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The house where the raid occurred GOOGLE MAPS

# Philadelphia police raid wrong home, take innocent people into custody

Police said the suspects they were looking for had worn face masks, creating extra confusion.

JASON NUCKOLLS
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letters@metro.us

A Southwest Philadelphia family's home was mistakenly raided by police and three were taken into custody before authorities realized they were at the wrong residence.

On Wednesday around 2:30 a.m. on the 6000 block of Elmwood Avenue, police looking for individuals in an earlier home invasion raided a house they wrongly believed to contain the suspects, leading to an injured resident and a police apology, 6ABC reported.

Police took three of the residents into custody before officials realized they were not the suspects authorities were seeking, CBS3 reported.

Police said that the individuals they were looking for had worn face masks, creating extra confusion.

The family who lives in the raided home was upset because their door was broken and one man suffered a bruise in the incident, 6ABC added.

While police have stated that none of those taken into custody were the suspects who remain at large, authorities said they would not release further details until later on Thursday, The Associated Press reported.

"[An officer] said that, 'We had you mistaken for someone else,' and it was all a misunderstanding, and they were going to get us a ride home," resident Michael Jardine said to 6ABC. "I just still feel like it shouldn't have never gotten that far — you coming in our house, drawing guns."

*"I just still feel like it shouldn't have never gotten that far — you coming in our house, drawing guns."*
Jardine

## SUCCESSFUL RAIDS

**79 suspects arrested in 'Operation Spring Cleaning' raids**

Police reportedly arrested as many as 79 suspects in a raid targeting more than 100 wanted on drug-related offenses in Darby Borough Thursday morning.

Officials called the raid "Operation Spring Cleaning," Fox 29 reported.

The coordinated effort included 180 officers from local Delaware County police departments, State Police, FBI, DEA and U.S. Marshals offices.

"We're going to keep coming after you, and if you think you have a big gang, my gang is bigger than your gang," Darby Borough Police Chief Robert Smythe told reporters at a press conference after the raid.

Smythe told Fox 29 that undercover officers bought as many as 2,000 bags of heroin in the area dating back to November.

The names and charges of those arrested were not immediately available. CHRIS CAESAR

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# DA steps into the boxing

DA Seth Williams goes toe-to-toe with criminal defense attorney Tariq El Shabazz in the boxing ring this Saturday, and it's all for a good cause.

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He's been training day and night, and this Saturday, District Attorney Seth Williams steps into the ring with the so-called "Philadelphia Johnnie Cochran," Tariq El Shabazz, for a one-of-a-kind boxing match rumored to be of epic proportions.

Put on by the Urban League of Philadelphia and Joe Hand Boxing Gym, the "Litigation Situation," as its being dubbed, or Golden Gloves Night at the Fights event will take place at Temple University's Liacouras Center, and it's all for charity.

El Debarge will perform. Tickets range from $40 to $125, and several organizations will benefit from the match, including the United Way, the Greater Philadelphia Film Office, Penn State Abington, and others.

"I got in shape starting in September 2014. I lost 55 pounds — 45 in the first 100 days, so since then I've been in a dance competition, ran the Broad Street Run, a 5K to support charity," said Williams.

"It's hard to say no when you hear the organizations which will benefit from it."

Shabazz was formerly an assistant district attorney and now does criminal defense. Williams said he heard Shabazz speak at a public event in the spring of 1991 and since then has always considered him a mentor.

Williams, 49, said he was trained by Danny Davis, trainer for the famous Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins.

"The training for this was really extreme," he said.

"I wish I had time to learn more footwork and how to move around the ring. Keeping your hands up with the gloves on — you have a mouthpiece, headgear, you're moving around the ring trying all the while to duck so you're not getting hit, thinking at any time you might get knocked out. It's a lot going on in your head.

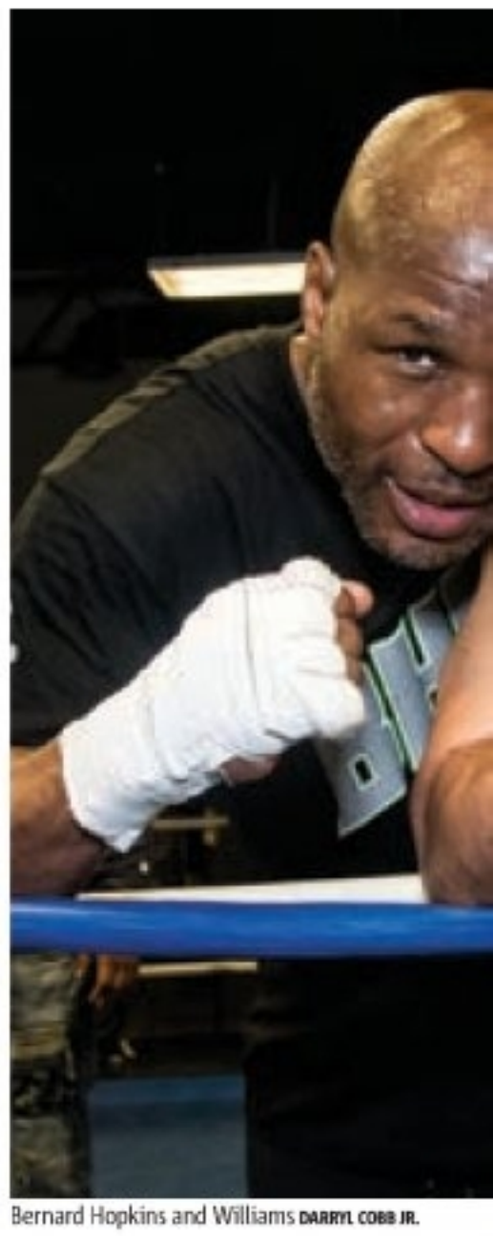
"My goal is to get out there, keep my hands up and keep it moving."

Both men are 5-feet-11, but Williams weighs 199 pounds, down from 243 pounds. He lost 55 pounds over the course of a year or so. Shabazz, 52, weighs 196 pounds but plans to weigh in at 180 at the time of the fight.

"I thought I was in better shape," he said.

"One of the greatest things is — I think this is good for both of us. There's no animosity and so its kind of sparring and we'll keep it going instead of trying to kill each other."

Williams said he heard Shabazz had boxed from



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# ring for charity

*"It's hard to say no when you hear the organizations which will benefit from it."*

Williams

the time he was 6 to 19 years old in Brooklyn.

"I didn't find that out until I agreed to fight him," he laughed. "He has significant boxing experience advantage over me."

Shabazz admits he's "always had my hand in boxing in one way or another from the time I was growing up as a teenager, and so the thought of participating in something like this was appetizing, to say the least.

"Boxing is a unique sport and the amount of training and physicality that's required to get in a sport like this is amazing. Let's let people know there are so many things we can do for our youth," said Shabazz.

John Barber III, Chief Financial Officer of the Urban League of Philadelphia, is hoping for 8,000 people to show up Saturday, though he's expecting closer to 4,000.

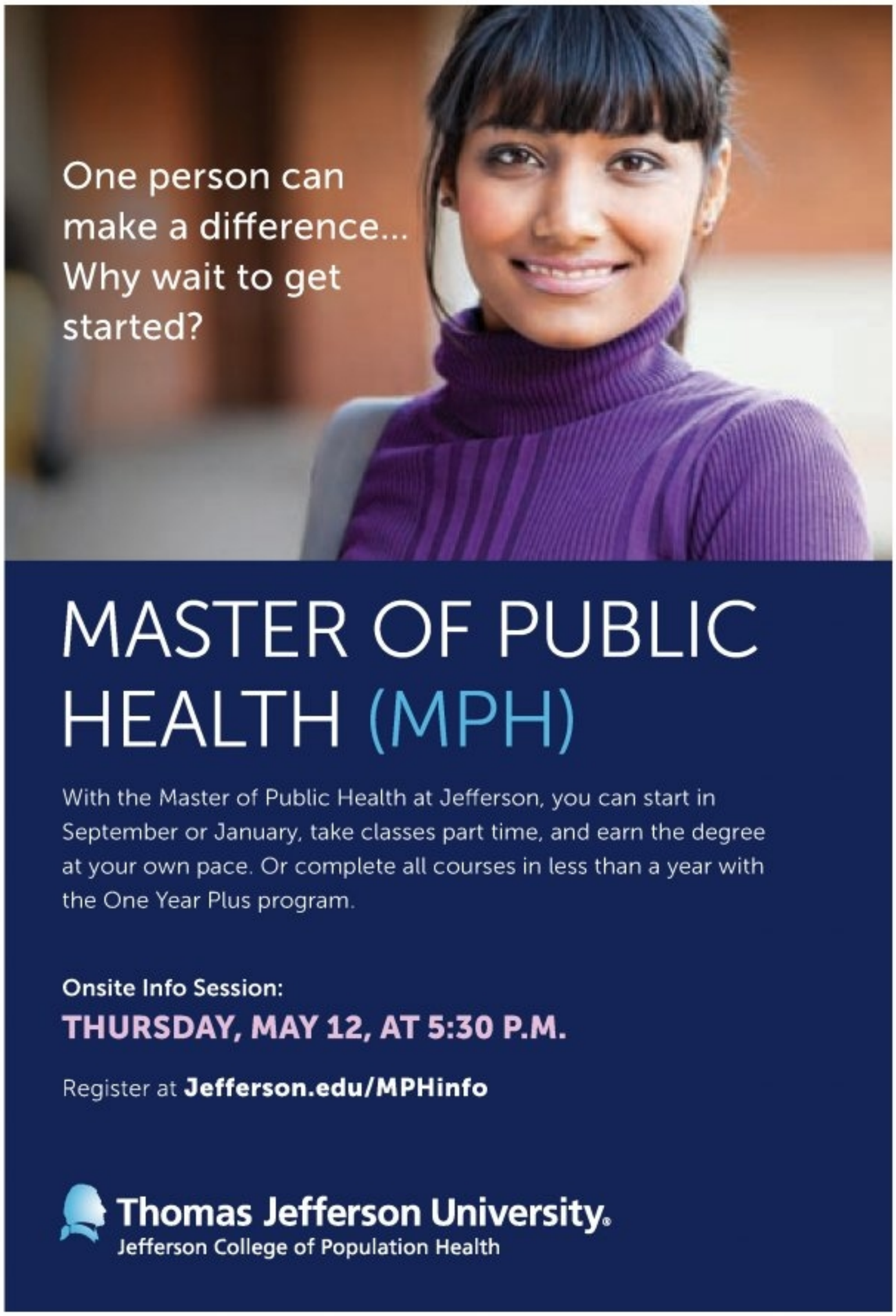
"This is the first time we're doing an event like this," he said.

"The concept being — entertainment — an experience. People come through that door — you're walking into a red carpet entrance when you come in. The goal was to create awareness for both the Urban League and let the youth know we care about these kids."

Williams said he and Barber were best friends in high school.

"All through high school, he did all he could to keep me out of fights," said Williams.

"And now, because of him, I'm in a fight at the age of 49."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# PRIMARY DAY WAS INTERESTING

There were on and off rain showers followed by sunny moments. All of this would conclude with a double rainbow that many Philadelphians noticed before sundown.

Who would have thought the pot of gold at the end of those rainbows would be the beginning of new political possibilities?

A rainbow is often referred to as a symbol of hope. Well, after Tuesday's primary elections, I'm a lot more optimistic about the future of the city's politics.

"Philly politics as usual" — the catch-all term for the dealings that happen in City Hall and Harrisburg — took a well-deserved hit this week as many establishment favorites lost to community challengers.

Although indicted on racketeering and bank-fraud charges, had the support of our city's Democratic Party — but leader Bob Brady. But that didn't stop voters from electing State Rep. Dwight Evans to replace him.

Evans ran once for governor and twice mayor twice, yet was never able to win an election outside the Northwest. I guess you could consider this, in terms of Philly politics, his Leonardo DiCaprio Oscar moment.

His victory Tuesday is an epic example of one man's downfall being another man's opportunity. Hopefully Fattah can now devote his focus, energy and finances on his trial, which is set to begin next month.

The Democratic Party machine would see more upsets as two candidates it backed in special elections — Tonyelle Cook-Artis and Lynwood Savage — lost their state House seats to newcomers Chris Rabb and Morgan Ceaphas, respectively.

And with challenger Jared Solomon ousting Mark Cohen, a 42-year House veteran and Pennsylvania's longest-serving state representative, it's safe to say Democratic City Committee Chairman Robert Mr. Brady's mighty hand didn't produce gold Tuesday.

But Brady wasn't the only one who lost steam. Labor boss and political influencer John "Johnny Doc" Dougherty's pick for attorney general, Stephen Zappala, lost to Josh Shapiro, who had scored an endorsement from President Barack Obama.

A voting machine RANDI FAIR

The 10-point blowout didn't help things for Brady and Mayor Jim Kenney, who also supported Zappala.

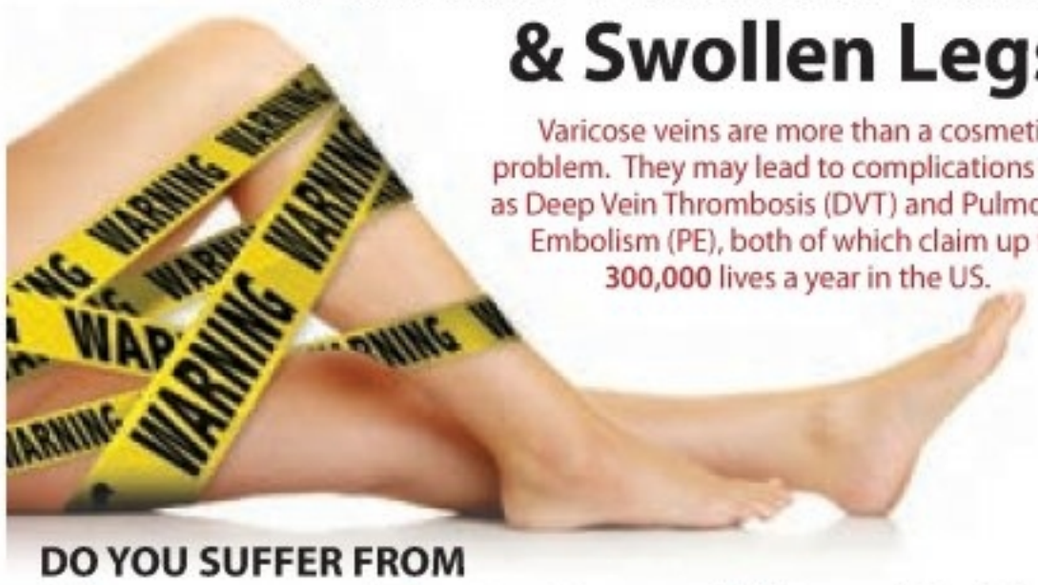
Overall, these upsets tell us one thing: Philadelphians are getting fed up with the status quo. In the past, I have lamented the nature of special elections and their unfair interjection of party favorites in local races.

But when two such candidates lose to fairly new political faces, it's time for the city's Democratic powers-that-be to rethink the system.

I have never been more excited to see what lies ahead for the new faces in Harrisburg and Washington.

There may still be "Philly politics as usual" in some cases, but Tuesday's upsets may signal the start of a new era.

**Painful Varicose Veins & Swollen Legs?**




Varicose veins are more than a cosmetic problem. They may lead to complications such as Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE), both of which claim up to **300,000** lives a year in the US.

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# Man in panda suit shot after bomb threat at Baltimore TV new station

The station said it evacuated the building after the bomb threat and a fire. The station said firefighters put out a fire in the gas tank of a car in the station's parking lot.

A man wearing a white panda suit who allegedly made a bomb threat at Fox Television's Baltimore affiliate on Thursday was shot and wounded by police outside the building, authorities said.

A counter-sniper shot the man as he emerged from Fox affiliate WBFF and ignored police orders to take his hands out of his pockets, police spokesman T.J. Smith told a news conference.

WBFF reported on its website that the man broke into the station demanding that it cover a story about an unspecified government conspiracy.

Smith said the man had "displayed something that appeared to be wires and some other things inside his jacket that appeared to be some kind of explosive device." The device turned out to be composed of harmless materials, including chocolate candy bars wrapped in tin foil, he said.

He said the man appears to be in his 20s. He has not been identified.

WBFF, which is owned by Sinclair Broadcast Group (SBGI.O), said a bomb robot scanned the man for nearly an hour before officers removed his clothing, picked him up and carried him to an armored police vehicle.

Station News Director Mike Tomko said on the station's website that the man was wearing a white, one-piece panda suit with a surgical mask and sunglasses.

REUTERS

## Walking in the 'Rain Zone'

GETTY IMAGES

People go through "Rain Zone" on Thursday in Wuhan, Hubei Province of China. Originating from London in 2012 and using digital technology, 'Rain Zone' is a carefully choreographed downpour monumental work that encourages people to become performers on an unexpected stage, while creating an intimate atmosphere of contemplation. The Museum of Modern Art in New York City featured the exhibit in 2013.

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# US high court approves rule change to expand hacking power of FBI

U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts transmitted the rules to Congress, which will have until Dec. 1 to reject or modify the changes to the federal rules of criminal procedure. If Congress does not act, the rules would take effect automatically.

The Supreme Court on Thursday approved a rule change that would let U.S. judges issue search warrants for access to computers located in any jurisdiction despite opposition from civil liberties groups who say it will greatly expand the FBI's hacking authority.

Magistrate judges normally can order searches only within the jurisdiction of their court, which is typically limited to a few counties.

The U.S. Justice Department, which has pushed for the rule change since 2013, has described it as a minor modification needed to modernize the criminal code for the digital age, and has said it would not permit searches or seizures that are not already legal.

Google, owned by Alphabet Inc, and civil liberties groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and Access Now contend the change would vastly expand the

The Google headquarters in Mountain View, California. GETTY IMAGES

Federal Bureau of Investigation's ability to conduct mass hacks on computer networks.

They say it also could run afoul of the U.S. Constitution's protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

While Congress can reject amendments to the rules that govern federal courts, it rarely exercises that authority and is not expected to do so during a heated election year. And few lawmakers have shown interest in the subject.

Democratic Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, condemned the rule change as having "significant consequences for Americans' privacy," and vowed to introduce legislation to reverse it.

"Under the proposed rules, the government would now be able to obtain a single warrant to access and search thousands or millions of computers at once; and the vast majority of the affected computers would belong to the victims, not the perpetrators, of a cybercrime," Wyden said in a statement. REUTERS

# Facebook in class of its own as ad revenue soars

After underwhelming results from Apple Inc., Google Inc., and other big tech names, investors finally found a friend in Facebook Inc. after the company shredded Wall Street's forecasts for revenue, profit and user growth.

Facebook's shares, which touched a record high of $120.79 on Thursday, closed up 7.2 percent at $116.73, giving a $22 billion boost to the social networking company's market value.

"FB remains in a class by itself across the combination of scale, growth, and profitability," J.P. Morgan Securities analyst Doug Anmuth said in a research note.

"While there are broader concerns of macro softness toward the end of 1Q, Facebook isn't seeing them."

Facebook chief and co-founder Mark Zuckerberg GETTY IMAGES

Apple lost about $36 billion in market value on Wednesday after it reported disappointing earnings the previous day, while Alphabet shed nearly $30 billion after missing expectations. REUTERS

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# Brother of San Bernardino shooter arrested with two others

The trio included Syed Raheel Farook, whose brother Syed Rizwan Farook and sister-in-law, Pakistan-born Tashfeen Malik, killed 14 people in a rampage that authorities have said was inspired by Islamist militants.

Three people linked to the couple responsible for December's mass shooting in San Bernardino, California were arrested on Thursday on conspiracy, marriage fraud and other charges unrelated to the massacre, U.S. prosecutors said.

Attorneys for the three did not immediately return calls seeking comment. But officials said the charges against them stemmed from an immigration-related investigation that spun off their probe into the massacre.

U.S. Navy veteran Syed Raheel Farook, 31, his wife, Tatiana Farook, 31, and her sister Mariya Chernykh, 26, were arrested by federal agents after being charged with conspiracy to make a false statement to immigration officials while under oath, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a statement.

The investigation found that in 2014 Enrique Marquez, who had been a friend of Syed Rizwan Farook, allegedly agreed in return for payment to marry Chernykh, a Russian citizen, so she could apply for permanent U.S. residency status, charging documents stated.

David Lem pays his respects at a memorial near the Inland Regional Center on December 5, 2015, in San Bernardino, California. GETTY IMAGES

*"Today's arrests open a new phase in the process of bringing to justice all individuals who allegedly committed crimes that were uncovered during our exhaustive investigation."*

U.S. Attorney Eileen Decker, in a statement

Chernykh also was charged with fraud and two counts of making material false statements to federal agents.

Syed Raheel Farook and Tatiana Farook, who like her sister is originally from Russia, staged photos of Marquez and Chernykh to make them look like a married couple and created a joint bank account for the two, according to the charging documents. The Farooks were arrested at their home in Corona while Chernykh was arrested in Ontario.

Marquez was charged on Dec. 18 with conspiring with Syed Rizwan Farook in 2011 and 2012 to support a militant attack in Southern California that was never carried out. He has pleaded not guilty.

Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife died in a shootout with police hours after the Dec. 2 San Bernardino attack.

The alleged sham marriage first surfaced in December, when Marquez also was charged with defrauding immigration authorities.

Syed Raheel Farook and Tatiana Farook, who are both U.S. citizens, if convicted of conspiracy each face a maximum sentence of five years in prison, while Chernykh if convicted of all charges faces up to 25 years, prosecutors said. They are scheduled to appear in court on Thursday afternoon.

Under U.S. law, Chernykh could also be deported to Russia if convicted.

REUTERS

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# Trump garners two more endorsements in Congress

Of the 300 Republicans in Congress – 246 in the House of Representatives and 54 in the Senate – Trump now had the explicit support of 11.

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump on Thursday won endorsements from two more U.S. Congress members as he battled to be his party's nominee.

Trump, a billionaire businessman, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Ohio Gov. John Kasich were vying for the nomination to represent the Republican Party in the Nov. 8 general election.

"Donald Trump is the only person who has what it takes to shake up the status quo and entrenched bureaucrats in Washington," Miller said in a statement.

Jeff Miller of Florida, who will retire from the Republican-controlled Congress at year's end, capping 16 years in the House, has chaired the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Bill Shuster of Pennsylvania, also in his 16th year in the House, has chaired a powerful transportation committee.

Bill Shuster GETTY IMAGES

Trump backers in Congress have argued that many more lawmakers privately expressed support for Trump, but still have to run in primaries and so have publicly remained neutral.

Rep. Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, who endorsed Trump this month, said in an interview that the Trump campaign was cranking up its outreach to Congress.

Cruz, a small-government Tea Party favorite, has snared more endorsements from Congress members.

The most prominent Republican lawmakers to publicly endorse Trump was Sen. Jeff Sessions, who has been advising the campaign on foreign policy.

The others were Reps. Chris Collins, Duncan Hunter, Tom Marino, Tom Reed, Scott DesJarlais, Lou Barletta and Renee Ellmers. REUTERS

## "Lucifer in the flesh"

Retired U.S. House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, weighed in on the presidential race during a talk at Stanford University on Wednesday, according to the student newspaper, saying he could vote for his golfing and "texting buddy" Trump but harshly criticizing Cruz.

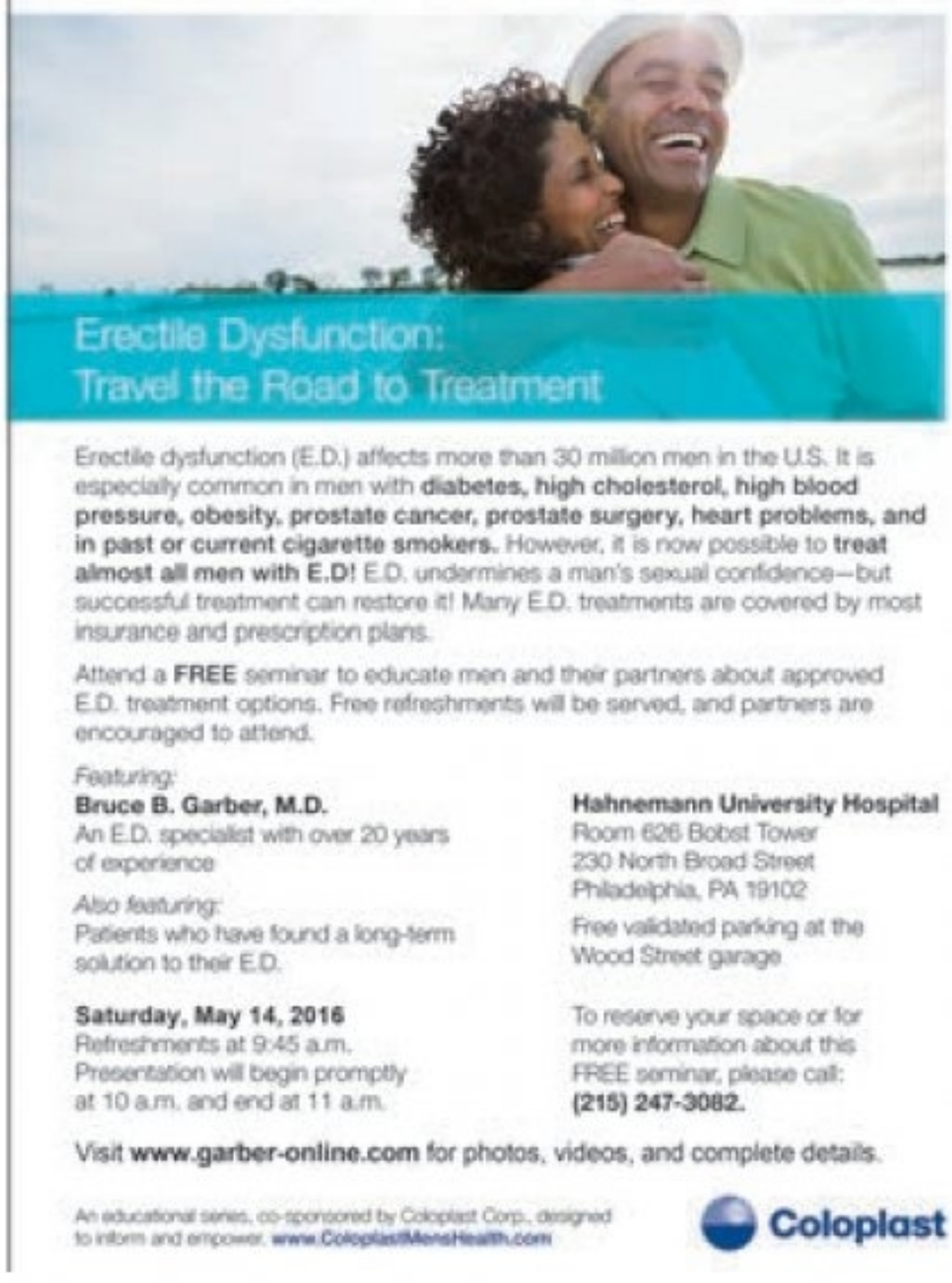


"Lucifer in the flesh," Boehner said of Cruz, who is a staunch fiscal conservative and who angered many of his colleagues in Congress by leading a government shutdown in 2013.

"I get along with almost everyone, but I have never worked with a more miserable son of a bitch in my life," Boehner said.

Cruz said Boehner was allowing "his inner Trump" to come out.

"What made John Boehner mad is that I led a movement of the people to hold Washington accountable," Cruz told reporters.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# UNDER SEIGE!

THE FOREMAN OPINION

TOM FOREMAN

With the general election looking ever more like a Trump-Clinton battle royale, I don't know what is happening behind the Democratic parapets — but I can imagine.

It's late. The front door is locked at HRC HQ, but rattles suddenly. "He's at the gate!" the campaign manager shrieks. Staffers leap.

"Quiet down, Mook. That's the FedEx guy." Hillary Clinton stares at poll numbers and thinks about the jitters running through her crew. Like the Republicans, she had written Donald Trump off as a joke. Then he decimated the field. And now he was coming for her. The last thing she needed was for everyone to fall apart. As it was, half the staff was giddy that Trump appeared to be sewing up the nomination, the other half was terrified. She calls out. "Joel, Amanda, John, Huma — everyone — get in here. Give it to me straight. What are the negatives?"

A functionary clears his throat. "Um — a lot of people really don't like him. He's shifted position numerous times. He has insulted minorities, women and even some voters. He plays fast and loose with facts, and his grasp of policy seems squishy."

"I asked for the negatives. Those all seem like positives for me."

"They should be. But none of it seems to matter. He draws oceans of new voters, and they seem ready to forgive every misstep."

"But I'm a better debater, right?" the contender says.

"In a classic sense, yes."

"And I have more experience in government?"

"Of course."

"And I could be the first female president!"

"Absolutely."

"I've heard enough," she says. "We can take this guy."

The staff disperses, most leaving for the night. The candidate wanders through the dim offices and finds her husband with a clipboard near the storage room. "You think I can beat him, don't you, Bill?"

"No question," he replies.

"So what are you doing?" she asks.

"I'm doing what your supporters ought to be doing. Counting canned goods. Because win or lose, it could be a long siege."

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In Garry Marshall's "Mother's Day," Kate Hudson and Sarah Chalke play sisters who've hidden from their parents that they're married to an Indian man and a woman, respectively. RON BATZDORFF, OPEN ROAD FILMS

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THE FUN STARTS HERE

# Kate Hudson will block you

The "Mother's Day" star has no patience for online bigotry.

MATT PRIGGE
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"Mother's Day" is a light ensemble comedy, just like Garry Marshall's other holiday movies ("Valentine's Day," "New Year's Eve"). But at least in the storyline that stars Kate Hudson, it flirts with something more. The actress, 37, plays a woman whose conservative parents are so red-state she never told them she married an Indian man (Aasif Mandvi) — or that her sister married another woman. Hudson — who worked with Marshall back during 2004's "Raising Helen" — talks about how he touches on issues with a light hand and the pains (and joys) of social media.

**First off, I wanted to ask about your half-brother, Wyatt Russell, who's fantastic in "Everybody Wants Some!!"**
Yes! He's the best! [Laughs] I'm so proud. But if you grow up with someone, you sort of know. Wyatt was a hockey player, but deep down I always knew he'd act. Even when he said, "Oh, I'll never do that," I knew it was always in him. I remember going to see his little plays [when he was a kid]. He was doing "Oliver Twist" and he was the Artful Dodger. Nobody in our family knew he'd been practicing this Cockney accent. He came out on the stage, he tipped his hat and said, "'Ello, I'm the Artful Dodger." And we were like, "What just happened?!" It was so charming. He has something very special and very natural.

**You've worked with Garry Marshall before. It looks like his sets are just fun hang-out spots.**
That's Garry's whole thing. He's 81 and he's still making movies. He loves to make movies. He creates a real family experience, which makes for a very laidback, fun time. He wants it to be enjoyable. He doesn't like complications; he doesn't like conflict. He makes a particular kind of movie, and he's not reinventing the wheel. One time he said to me, "It's not always about making people laugh. Sometimes it's just nice to make them smile." He just wants people to be happy, and he's the same way on his sets.

**Still, your subplot features some topical business about Texan parents and their fear of interracial couples and same-sex marriage.**
When I read it, "Garry's hitting on some issues here, I like it!" [Laughs] But he does it in a very Garry Marshall way. He's touching on very serious issues that need to be addressed. But Garry's thing is all about hope, about optimism. He's hoping people can reach an understanding and have forgiveness on both sides. He makes it about family and what it is to accept and love each other. That's who Garry is.

**These days we usually focus on people's bigotries.**
It's incredibly rampant. You see it everywhere. I remember posting when same-sex marriage was made legal across the country. It was amazing to see the comments that came up on your feed. It was horrible. It's unbelievable that it still exists. But sometimes I think that's where social media is good, because you see it. It's still there. Don't ever think it's not. It's always a dialogue that should be constantly discussed.

**As a non-famous person I can't imagine what it's like to be a famous person on social media.**
[Laughs] I think social media's great. You can just block everybody. The whole "don't block" thing — I'm like, eff that, block 'em. I don't need that. Who does? You're an a—e, you alienate yourself. Bye!

GETTY IMAGES


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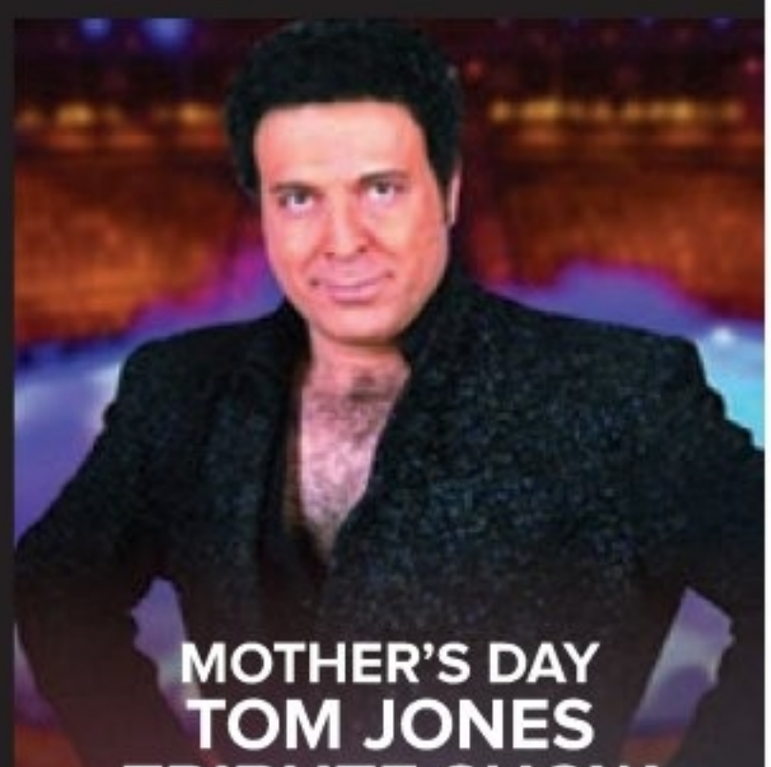

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## "Mother's Day"

**Director:** Garry Marshall
**Stars:** Kate Hudson, Jennifer Aniston
**Rating:** PG-13

• • • • •

What is up with Julia Roberts' hair in Garry Marshall's "Mother's Day"? RON BATZDORFF

Say what you will about "Mother's Day" — at least it knows what it is. Like Garry Marshall's other ensemble holiday yuk-fests ("Valentine's Day," "New Year's Eve"), it's the cinematic equivalent of a card with a dumb, inoffensive joke you hastily grab at your local Hallmark. Marshall might even take that as a compliment.

Actually, maybe it isn't quite up to those heights: "Funny" greeting cards tend to have a coherent joke plus attractive, professional designs. "Mother's Day" is visually haphazard and generally slapdash, with a couple heaping helpings of slumming big name stars barely staying awake through untold failed gags.

Famous faces fill in storylines concerning divorce (Jennifer Aniston and Timothy Olyphant), adoption (Julia Roberts and Britt Robertson) and death (Jason Sudeikis). They all sound dark, almost Bergmanesque. They're not played that way. Marshall and his four writers treat them like little more than light time-killers.

That even goes for the most topical thread, which finds Kate Hudson as a woman who's never told her red-state parents (Robert Pine and character actress Margo Martindale) that she married a non-American (Aasif Mandvi). She's kept mum so long, they don't even know they have a mixed-race grandson. (They're also about to discover their other daughter, played by Sarah Chalke, married a woman.) Let's be generous: An otherwise anodyne multiplex number in the tank for interracial and same-sex marriage — while imagining an alternate universe in which probable Trump voters can be de-bigoted — isn't to be written off.

Then again, even this thread gets a surreal, out-of-nowhere set piece involving an out-of-control Winnebago in which the actors look confused. Jokes, dumb and sloppy, are the norm. Marshall directs (if that's the word) his scenes for low-watt gags and awkward cutaways. Pretty, famous faces aside, this is very much an old man's film — an autumnal work from a longtime content-maker chugging stubbornly away at what he does best. Some directors use this time to reflect on mortality, what it means to be human, even their own legacy and past work. Marshall will settle for overacting kids and Viagra jokes. But it's most vital as a portrait of the artist who's happy, for once, not to be an artist. MATT PRIGGE

"Ratchet & Clank" is based on a beloved video game series, apparently. FOCUS WORLD

## "Ratchet & Clank"

**Director:** Jericca Cleland, Kevin Munroe
**Voices of:** James Arnold Taylor, David Kaye
**Rating:** PG

• • • • •

If you have no idea what a Ratchet or a Clank is, you might mistake "Ratchet & Clank" for just another off-brand animated romp — a tiny oddity like "Norm of the North" or "The Nut Job" that every now and then mysteriously slips into multiplexes, aiming only to trick gullible parents into a family night out. Instead, it's something much more annoying: a video game movie crossed with an origin story for an established brand. These days even the randos are tied to a bigger corporate hellbeast.

That brand is a long-running series of games, pairing a vaguely tiger-like being (the former) with a tiny robot out of '50s sci-fi (the latter). They zip across the universe, shooting things with big guns.

The movie does slightly more than that. It's a self-aware, joke-heavy piece of whiplash — although not so self-aware that it ever cops to baldly ripping off "Star Wars." To wit: Ratchet (voice of James Arnold Taylor) is a mopey orphan wallowing on a disused desert planet, longing to show the world his secret might. Fate conspires to have him join a squad of do-gooders battling a baddie (Paul Giamatti) who's constructed a massive gizmo that can destroy planets.

There's one novel idea: The main star of the intergalactic superheroes, Captain Qwark (voice of Jim Ward) is such an ego hound that he sells out to the bad guys when he feels the least bit underappreciated. Qwark, too, is a knockoff, or at least strongly reminiscent of "Futurama's" Zapp Brannigan, right down to his declarative speaking voice and yen for venality and cowardice. There is, however, a "sheep-a-nator," a machine that turns people into sheep. Otherwise this is a video game you can't play, and not even one of the better installments. It exists solely to birth more gamers, and as far as that goes it's quick to achieve game over. MP

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Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele made an action movie with a cat, what are you doing with your life? STEVE DIETL

## "Keanu"

**Director:** Peter Atencio
**Stars:** Jordan Peele, Keegan-Michael Key
**Rating:** R

• • • • •

The first movie by comedy duo Key and Peele isn't too different from the first sketch on their defunct show "Key & Peele." About 30 seconds long, the skit finds two black men — one yuppie, the other gay — pretending to be harder than they are because they think the other is a dangerous thug. "Keanu," by contrast, runs just under 100 minutes, and it mostly offers untold variations on a variation on the same satirical idea. Write what you know.

It's a rich idea, though, and Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele are talented enough to puff it out without padding it out. Kittens help. Couch-ridden by a sudden dumping, Peele's Rell is brought back to life by the sudden appearance of a reliably meowing black-on-grey tabby, which he names Keanu. So objectively adorbs is the critter that when local gang members (led by Method Man) accidentally break into his home and take Keanu, Rell thinks nothing of teaming with his bougie friend Clarence (Key) to take back what's his.

This requires subterfuge, in their case ditching their white-ish patois and pretending to be fearsome toughs (from "Allentown") named Tectonic and Shark Tank. What starts out as a feature-length "kitty!" YouTube video turns into a lampoon of both action movies and the 21st century concept of the black male. **MP**

Even the scenes where Ernest Hemingway (Adrian Sparks) goes fishing with Giovanni Ribisi are terrible. YARI FILM GROUP

## "Papa Hemingway in Cuba"

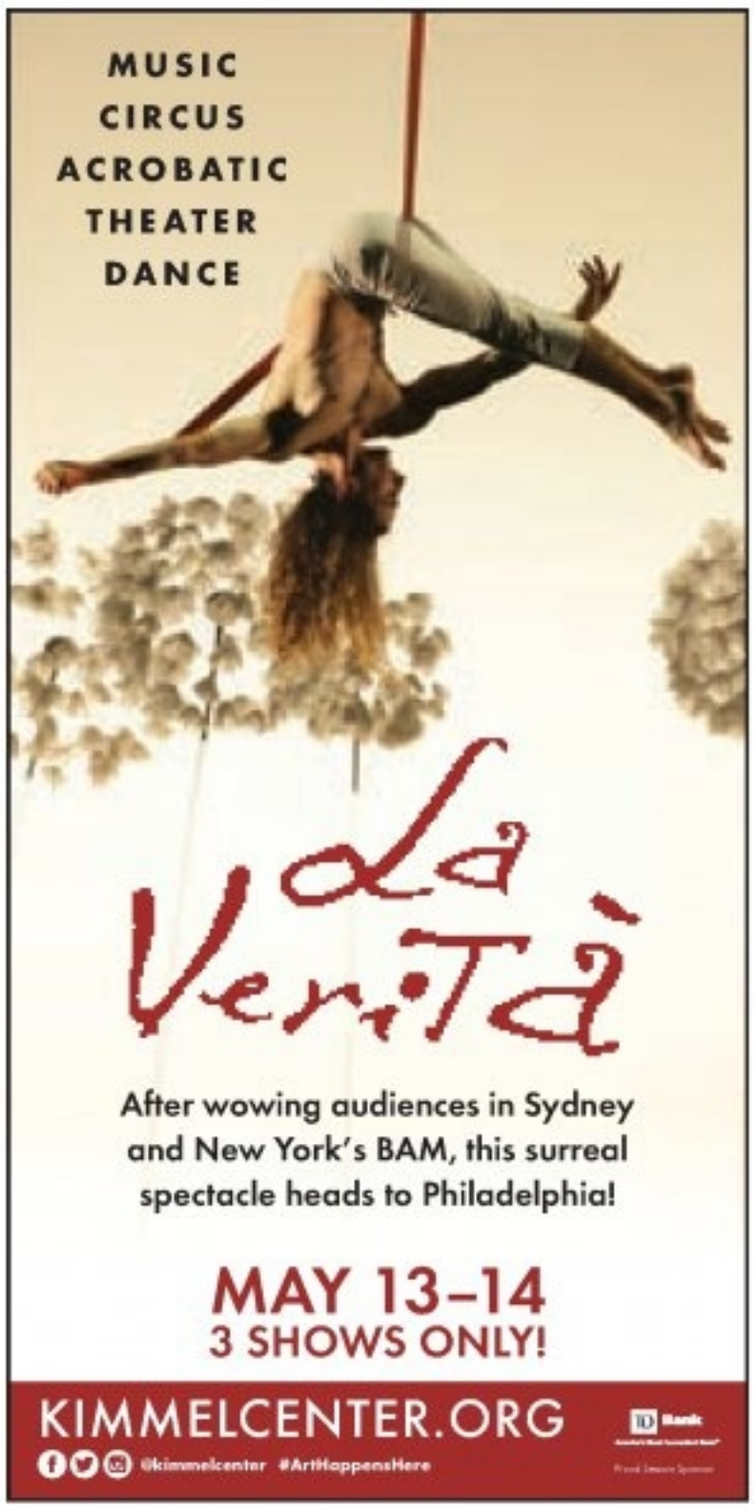
**Director:** Bob Yari
**Stars:** Giovanni Ribisi, Adrian Sparks
**Rating:** R

• • • • •

"Goddam war. I hate it." Is it legal for a movie about Ernest Hemingway to have dialogue this bad? Granted, it's probably not a shock that a film titled "Papa Hemingway in Cuba" is clumsy with words, even if it is about one of America's finest writers.

At least Adrian Sparks, as the salty author, fares better than poor Giovanni Ribisi, who's forced to recite unsayable lines both in person and on the narration track. He's Denne Bart Petticlerc's semi-fictional stand-in: a lowly journo who, in the 1950s, writes his favorite author a powerfully wan fan letter, whose parade of trite cliches inspire Hemingway to whisk him off to his Cuban manse for some boozy, pre-Revolution hang time.

This is history writ broad and dumb, where a troubled icon is depicted as a moody jerk who only calms down to offer bland homilies and epic self-pity. All the while Ribisi drones through generic observations such as, "I felt like I was falling into a world of madness — and somehow it was up to me to stop it." Summing up his complex and troubled idol at the end, he can only offer, "I guess what he really wanted was true love." Artists struggle for immortality through their work; "Papa Hemingway" is so bad it ought to be tried for attempted homicide. **MP**



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# Javier Colon on life since winning 'The Voice'

The inaugural winner of 'The Voice' tells us how life has changed as he gears up for his "Gravity" tour.

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Javier Colon is Adam Levine's favorite blind audition to this day. GETTY IMAGES

Javier Colon, the first winner of "The Voice" and Adam Levine's "all-time favorite blind audition" of the show, recently hit the road on tour for his latest album, "Gravity." The artist had quite a journey before the show and it's been quite a journey since. We caught up with Colon to find out what life has been like since "The Voice" and what we can expect from him next.

**Do you think "The Voice" prepared you for your life as a musician now?**

Before the show I was at a crossroads in my career. "The Voice" was really my last shot at making it in the industry. I had never done a TV show or anything like that before. I didn't even want to do it at first. My brother and friend had to convince me to audition. I thought it would be good to gain a few fans and maybe get me a few gigs. Never thought in a million years that I would win.

**What is the biggest thing you took away from your experience on "The Voice"?**

I had a record label before I went on the show, but I felt like [the label] wasn't allowing me to be my true self. I always tell people it's so important to be true to who you really are. "The Voice" allowed me to be myself, to be authentic, and I never wanted to lose that.

**What was the inspiration behind "Gravity"and what do you hope people will get out of it?**

"Gravity" is really about life, and more specifically about relationships. There's a story about a man who loses a relationship with a woman and he talks about how every breath after that is a breath of regret and he wishes he could just go back and make things different but he can't. I feel like a lot of people can relate to that feeling.

**You wrote or co-wrote most of the songs on the album. What was that experience was like for you?**

It was my first time producing. I got to listen and pick the sound, choose the melody and make a lot of choices to make sure it was exactly what I wanted. I wasn't forced to do anything I didn't want to do. I love to write. I write a lot or at least try to. I keep my phone on me and jot down every thought I have, or feeling, or verse that comes to my mind and try to incorporate that later when I'm in the studio. I use my phone a lot, actually.

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# Remembering 'Paul'

The X Ambassadors recall that time they made up a fake tour manager.

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X Ambassadors' stadium anthems ("Jungle," "Renegades") gained them critical fame, but it's the powerfully sorrowful "Unsteady" that had them reigning steady, peaking at No. 4 on Billboard's alternative charts. The band's third single from their studio debut, "VHS," released last summer, is a departure from their introductory battle cries, but the emotional song, penned by lead singer Sam Harris, comes from a more personal place.

"It came out of nowhere," he says from a diner in Missouri, where the band had a few hours of downtime en route to their next show. "Alex, our producer, and I talked about what family means to us and my relationship with my parents and their divorce and how uncomfortable it makes me to even think about it."

Harris explains that the single explores his feelings at the age of 15, following his parents' split and his own need for emotional support. However, divorce, he knows, is a common process many families to go through, and "Unsteady" has allowed the band to feel even more connected with their fans.

"I think the great thing about that song is that the chorus itself is what people latch onto, and that's a universal sentiment: admitting that you feel vulnerable and unsteady," he says. And while the song resonates with fans, Harris admits it can be hard to accept the transference of emotions.

> *"[The American dream] is a beautiful thing, but it can turn on you very easily. You can work so hard and put blood sweat and tears into something and still never be satisfied."*
>
> Sam Harris

"It can be an uncomfortable feeling knowing that your music has had such a hard effect on someone. It's a good comfort because it means something, but there's a weight to it that shouldn't be ignored. It's such a hard thing to fathom because there's no way you can fully empathize with people when they tell you stories and it's hard to do anything other than be graceful and grateful and thankful that this is happening."

On a similar level, Harris is also responsible for penning Rihanna's "American Oxygen," about the struggle of achieving the American dream from an immigrant's perspective. Harris is a third-generation American himself, but he felt the concept was an important one to explore, noting some parallels in the struggle of a newbie musician. "You're constantly at odds with the world around you," he says. "[The American dream] is a beautiful thing, but it can turn on you very easily. You can work so hard and put blood sweat and tears into something and still never be satisfied."

"American Oxygen" with the help of Alex da Kid, who produces both X Ambassadors and Rihanna, took more shape once it was passed into the latter's hands. Rihanna peaked at 34 on the Billboard Mainstream Top 40, while Harris recently released his own version of the song, noting it's even made a few appearances on their setlist during this tour, which will hit cities throughout the U.S. through mid-June before the band heads off to Europe.

The tour supporting "VHS" is a far cry from the band's earlier days, during which, Harris admits he would pose as a tour manager in order to secure gigs.

"We couldn't book a show for anything, so I asked my friend, 'How the hell do I do this?' He said to make up a fake manager's name with a fake email address and email venues with very terse, to-the-point emails asking for show dates. Before that, I would write these long emails explaining that I was the lead singer of this band and how we loved the venue and no one ever replied. So we booked some shows under the fake name, Paul Lewis."

But what happened to Paul Lewis?

"We'd show up to a gig and people would be like 'Where's Paul?' and we'd be like 'Oh, he's sick,'" laughs Harris. "We did that for a while but when finally got our own manager, we fired Paul."

Sam Harris of X Ambassadors is also responsible for Rihanna's social-political hit "American Oxygen." GETTY IMAGES

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# Opera in the age of swiping right

We interview soprano Sarah Shafer about her starring role in "Elixir of Love," opening tonight.

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"'Elixir of Love' is very relevant to these times when it's so easy to swipe right and find somebody these days," says Sarah Shafer with a laugh. "It would appeal to modern audiences because this subject matter is on a lot of people's minds. What's the advantage of a last-ing relationship or being committed as opposed to being free and not giving your heart to anyone?"

The Philadelphia-based singer is quickly becoming one of opera's most sought-after sopranos. Since graduating from the Curtis Institute of Music, she's performed multiple roles with the San Francisco Opera, taken the stage at Carnegie Hall as a soloist and is a part of the Emerging Artist program with Opera Philadelphia.

Tonight, she takes the stage as Adina in "Elixir of Love," which runs through May 8 at the Academy of Music. We got the chance to chat with Shafer backstage about modern love, living in Philly, and why opera isn't just for seniors and the wealthy.

Sarah Shafer as Adina in "Elixir of Love." KELLY & MASSY PHOTOGRAPHY

**How does it feel to be back in Philadelphia?**
It's fantastic to be able to walk to work!

**What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**
I live near Rittenhouse Square, so I'm always there meeting friends in the park. I love Old City. I love the River Walk on the Schuylkill. Caribou and Parc are two of my favorite restaurants. The Barnes is my favorite museum!

**What is your routine the day of a performance?**
I try to warm up early in the day so there's not a panic to do it in the evening. I do some cardio to get the blood flowing. And then, of course, eat well. I actually clean a lot on performance days. (laughs) I come into the dressing room as early as I can to go

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"Everything is on a grand scale here in Philadelphia at the academy," says soprano Sarah Shafer. JENNIFER LOGUE

over my staging. I try to have goals for myself at every performance so it's not just "oh try to do the best you can every time." I give myself little missions to do.

**That's such a good idea! Does it keep you from getting nervous?**
My teacher came up with that to not put the pressure on myself. Every performance is an opportunity to get better. Setting goals helps me focus on the task at hand and enables me to be generous with the audience rather than self-focused.

**When did you first realize you wanted to be an opera singer?**
Quite late actually! I didn't like opera when I was growing up and went to my first opera when I was 14. I went to the Met, loved it and started taking voice lessons. I was also a serious pianist at the time. I auditioned for college in both voice and on piano and ended up getting into Curtis for voice which is why I ended up being a singer. But I still wasn't sure even after I got in if opera was the thing for me. Thankfully at Curtis, you do five operas a year so you get a lot of experience early on and I began to see what it was all about and started enjoying it.

**There's this notion that going to the opera is strictly for seniors or for people with money. How do you respond to that idea?**
I totally reject that idea. I think opera, like any art, is made for everyone. A big deterrent for people is that it's in a foreign language but they put subtitles right above the stage! The productions are made to be understood by people of all ages, including children and teenagers. Especially this piece, "Elixir of Love." It's a relatable story — it's funny, it's charming. The melodies are just gorgeous. It's tuneful. You'll be humming to the songs leaving the theater.

**Who do you look up to as an opera singer?**
A big mentor of mine is Benita Valente. She has a beautiful career and has done many things that I aspire to. Renee Fleming is another fantastic singer, musician and person I look up to.

**What's on your professional bucket list?**
There's this opera called the "Der Rosenkavalier" by Strauss and it's the most beautiful music I've ever heard. I hope one day I get to sing the role of Sophie. I'd also love to perform Susanna in "The Marriage of Figaro."

## If you go

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# Bagel bliss: Our picks for the best bagels in Philadelphia

From New York-style to Montreal-style, Philly has your bagel buttered.

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There is nothing more heavenly than waking up to the crusty, doughy deliciousness of a first-class bagel. While it may not be common knowledge to Philly outsiders, our fair city has become quite the bagel town, with bagel shops popping up everywhere from Rittenhouse to Fishtown. No matter where in the city you are, giving in to your bagel craving has never been easier. To help you on your quest, here are our top picks for the best bagels in Philadelphia.

Knead PROVIDED

## Knead

**725 Walnut St.**
**www.kneadbagels.com**
The fine folks at Knead tout themselves as a "nontraditional" bagel shop and they certainly have interesting flavors to backup the claim, including the spicy togarashi and cardamom bagels. If you're keeping it simple, however, their fennel seed and sea salt bagel is a nice middle ground.

Spread PROVIDED

## Spread Bagelry

**262 S. 20th St.**
**www.spreadbagelry.com**
If it's a Montreal-style bagel you're looking for, a visit to Spread Bagelry is in order. While their bagel varieties are more traditional, their array of homemade, local jams and spreads takes things to the next level. Try their smoked Nova salmon cream cheese for an extra kick. If you're in the mood for something sweeter, the seasonal sweet berry cream cheese is a must-try. Try BYOV (vodka) bloody marys on weekends.

## South Street Philly Bagels

**613 S. 3rd St.**
Open since 1996, this family-owned and operated bagel business is dedicated to the New York-style bagel and serves up a range of varieties including blueberry, egg, pumpernickel and chocolate chip. If your Instagram feed is missing a shot of a rainbow bagel, don't worry, they have those, too.

South Street Philly Bagels PROVIDED

## Philly Style Bagels

**1451 Columbia Ave.**
**www.phillystylebagels.com**
The world has New York- and Montreal-style bagels, so it's about time there was a Philly-style bagel, right? Created by Collin Shapiro and Jonathon Zilber, the Philly-style bagel sets itself apart by being boiled in water and beer. This ingenious twist to the bagel experience may put off bagel purists, but it sure is tasty. Try one for yourself at their recently opened shop in Fishtown.

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# 7 Things you need to know about Wentz

Will Carson Wentz turn out to be a franchise quarterback? Decide for yourself.

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After Jared Goff went first overall to the Rams, the Eagles struck second in Thursday night's NFL Draft and as expected, nabbed another quarterback — Carson Wentz — second overall.

Here are the things you need to know as Wentz heads to Philadelphia to (hopefully) become the franchise's next face for years to come:

## 1 He's a big boy

Wentz has the size you want in an NFL franchise quarterback, with big hands, a 6-foot-5 frame and muscular 237-pound build. With defensive linemen getting bigger and bigger, the Eagles will take any advantage they can get at the line of scrimmage.

## 2 He's been compared to Andrew Luck

NFL.com's Mike Mayock had some pretty complimentary things to say about Wentz during the NFL combine a few months ago.

"When I look at him, I see a kid that's as athletic or more athletic than Andrew Luck," the analyst said. "He's bigger than Andrew Luck. He's got arm strength comparable to Andrew Luck. He just doesn't have the experience that Andrew Luck had at a high level coming out of college. So I see a ceiling for this kid similar to Andrew Luck."

## 3 He's a North Dakota kid

The toughness and pride you want from your hometown quarterback — yeah, Wentz has it. Just read an excerpt from his entry on ThePlayers Tribune.com:

*"You don't get through winters with an average temperature of 12.8 degrees without being a certain kind of tough - the cracked-skin-dried-blood kind of tough. That toughness comes in handy in a place like North Dakota. You see, up there, jamming your numb fingers against someone's ice-cold helmet happens every practice. Getting decked on the cement-like dirt is just how a play ends. And here's the thing: I love it.*

Carson Wentz will wake up Friday as a household name in Philadelphia. GETTY IMAGES

## 4 He is a good fit for Eagles

The Eagles will revert to an Andy Reid-style West Coast offense next season under new head coach Doug Pederson and Wentz appears to be tailor made for the style.

"The style of offense we play in — we're a huddle, West Coast offense," Wentz' college coach Chris Klieman told The New York Times. "We're going to go under center, let the quarterback change protections, audible to run. … All those things are a little lost in college football because a lot of guys go no-huddle and look to the sideline to see what the coordinator's going to run."

## 5 He hasn't played a lot

Wentz had a few injury issues at North Dakota State and only threw 612 total passes in four seasons. In comparison, Sam Bradford threw 532 in 14 games for the Eagles last season. He missed two months of his senior year due to a bad wrist but was at full strength for the senior bowl.

## 6 He's still put up good numbers

Even with a small sample size, Wentz's numbers do impress. He threw for 5,115 yards at a 64.1 percentage completion clip while scoring 45 touchdowns and just 14 picks. In his final two seasons at NDSU he ran for 936 yards and 12 touchdowns showing he is a threat to run as well.

## 7 He sometimes tries too hard

In his last two seasons in college, Wentz fumbled 10 times. According to scouts and to CBS Sports, Wentz often times tried to hard to extend plays and does not know when to give up, slide, or throw the ball away. Learning these skills are imperative for success in the NFL.

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# Flyers report card: Goalies carried team

How do we grade the Flyers' performance this season after a bitter first-round exit?

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
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sports@metro.us

The loss to the Capitals in six games in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs still stings, but this season was a step in the right direction for the Flyers.

Let's be honest, it was supposed to be a rebuilding year. Instead, the team exceeded expectations and made an unlikely and spirited push to the playoffs.

Before moving ahead to the draft and offseason, it's time to reflect on the season and hand out the Flyers year-end report card.

## Offense: C

**(midseason grade: D)**
The Flyers finished with 211 goals, which ranked them 22nd in the NHL. Although stars Claude Giroux (67 points in 78 games) and Jake Voracek (55 in 73) had off years, the team received breakout seasons from youngsters Brayden Schenn (a career-high 26 goals and 59 points) and Sean Couturier (39 points in 63 games) and Wayne Simmonds netted a career-high 32 goals. General manager Ron Hextall must address the lack of depth, though, which hindered the attack.

## Defense: B

**(midseason grade: B)**
Rookie sensation Shayne Gostisbehere obviously stood out from an offensive perspective with 46 points in 64 games, but a crew that included youngsters like Brandon Manning and Radko Gudas who teamed with veterans Nick Schultz, Michael Del Zotto and Mark Streit combined to form a respectable defense that allowed 210 goals, 11th best in the league. With one or two highly-touted prospects expected to possibly arrive next year, the unit should get even better.

The Flyers hope they can bring back both Steve Mason and Michal Neuvirth in 2016-17. GETTY IMAGES

## Goaltending: A-

**(midseason grade: B+)**
The duo of Steve Mason and Michal Neuvirth was one of the best all season, especially over the final two months when the team made its dash for a playoff berth. Credit Neuvirth for his performance in the first half of the year, when he kept the team afloat as Mason struggled to round into form. Credit Mason for putting the team on his back by going 10-4-3 over the final four weeks of the season when he also started 17 of 18 games.

## Coaching: B+

**(midseason grade: B-)**
So much for rookie head coach Dave Hakstol struggling to make the transition from college to the NHL. Not one to show emotion, he hit the right nerve and got the most out of his — flawed — roster. Players bought into his system and younger guys like Nick Cousins, Gostisbehere, Schenn and Couturier flourished.

## Overall: B

The Flyers finished the regular season 41-27-14 for 96 points and earned the second wild card spot after last year's dismal 33-31-18 mark for 84 points, which were the seventh fewest in the league. Most importantly, though, they showed signs that the future — immediate and long term — looks promising.

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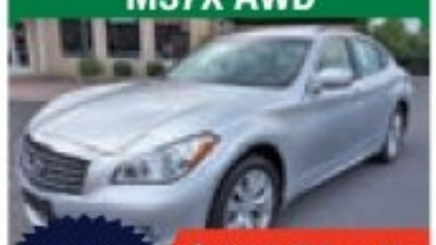
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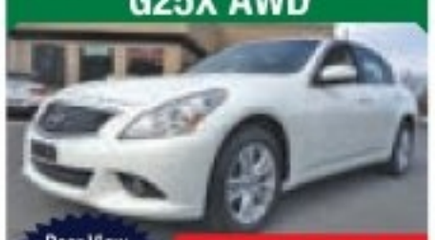
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# Phillies' rookie Goeddel adjusting to life in the big leagues

The Rule-5 pick was thrown into the deep end when he made the MLB roster this spring.

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Tyler Goeddel still has a long way to go … and that's perfectly fine.

Being a Rule-5 selection this year, Goeddel has to stay on the Phillies roster or else his rights are offered back to Tampa Bay. He's hoping to follow in the footsteps of Odubel Herrera, who was a Rule-5 pick two years ago and has since turned into a darn good ballplayer.

It hasn't been easy going for the 23-year-old over the first month. Yet, that isn't all that unexpected considering he's making the jump from Double-A to the big leagues.

"When you go from Double-A, you're playing against 21-year-olds and now you have guys who are 35, it's a different game," said catcher Cameron Rupp. "He showed in spring training playing against those guys he can play up here. He'll come along. We're all pulling for him."

Goeddel has appeared in 12 of the first 21 games with 25 at-bats. Up until April 23, he had just one hit in 16 at-bats for a .063 average. That lone hit wound up being a big one as his single against San Diego in his debut at Citizens Bank Park led to the game's first run in a 3-0 win.

"We're going to bring him along easy," said manager Pete Mackanin after the April 12 game. "He's going to start playing a little bit more … he's such a solid defender that it's not hard to keep running him out there."

That was two weeks ago. His playing time has slowly risen. In his last three games, Goeddel is progressively coming around. He has three hits in nine at-bats, upping his average to .160. It doesn't seem like much, but trending upward — even slightly — is always a good feeling for a younger guy.

He believes the one area he'll have to work on is his strength to counter the pitching he'll be facing. His initial takeaway was the fact that everyone in the major leagues throws hard as opposed to what he was seeing in Double-A. For that reason, he's really working on shortening his swing that "works against any velocity."

"I feel I'm a lot better than I was a year ago," Goeddel said. "I learned a lot playing in Double-A last season. This offseason I worked hard and spring training was a good experience for me. I really feel like I'm in a lot better situation than I was in."

He admits he's still getting used to not playing every day like he was last year, but that it's just something he has to adjust to if he wants to succeed.

"I just have to play my game," Goeddel said. "Not try to press or do too much. I feel if I just relax the nerves, I'll be good to go.

Goeddel is learning on the job, after having played only as high as Double-A prior to this season. GETTY IMAGES

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# Union enjoying best start since 2011

The Union are in second place in the East, looking for their first playoff berth in five seasons.

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There's a point in every season for the Union where fans start to measure the success of the current team against the success of a team from the past. If the barometer for success to Union fans is making the playoffs, it's easy to narrow that comparison down to one — the 2011 team.

As the only Union team in franchise history to reach the playoffs, the 2011 team started the season off fast to a 4-2-1 start (13 points) through the first seven matches. They allowed just three goals in that time span, while netting five for a plus-2 goal differential.

Through seven matches for the current Union team, the team is out to a surprising 4-3-0 start (12 points), giving them sole possession of second place in the Eastern Conference. They've allowed seven goals, while netting 10 for a plus-3 goal differential at the moment.

"It's a good start to the year," manager Jim Curtin said. "We knew it was important to have a good start. We've had a lot of positive changes in the organization and now you're seeing the results justify and give a belief to the players. They've really bought in and they deserve a lot of the credit."

The comparisons to the 2011 team are clear. Out of the gates, a strong defensive unit has anchored an offense that is beginning to find its stride. C.J. Sapong, who has netted two goals in the past three matches, now ranks 10th in the MLS in scoring with four goals and has been deemed by manager Jim Curtin to have come from "Planet Lovetron" after his most recent performance.

Saturday's match kicks off at 4 p.m. at Talen Energy Stadium, televised on ABC. GETTY IMAGES

Sapong doesn't have to look far for advice when it comes to staying consistent in the scoring department. Teammate Sebastien Le Toux led the 2011 team in scoring with 11 goals and continues to be a factor in the team's success in 2016.

"As a center back you do not want to play against C.J.," Curtin said. "He's a pain in the butt to play against, he holds the ball very well and he is in a good spot right now. But, I do think there's something to the fact that we were happy with him, and we think he can be the guy who gets the 15 goals, the 20, whatever it is."

In this past Saturday's 2-0 shutout of NYCFC (1-3-4), Curtin became the all-time winningest coach (26 wins) in Union history, but he's not about the accolades. He's happier to see the growth of this team and how far they've come. He's dialed in for Saturday's match against the San Jose Earthquakes (4-2-2), led by MLS leading scorer Chris Wondolowski (7 goals).

"[Wondolowski's] as good as anyone at arriving in the box," Curtin said. "[He] runs as hard as anyone and will sacrifice his body. [He's a] great player, he's had a great career, he's a great professional, and a really good person, too. I can't say enough about him, he'll be a handful for our guys, another tough task that he's not just a one-person assignment, everybody has to be aware of him because his movement is so good in the box."

A win would bring the Union their best start in franchise history. But the mindset of the team is that of its coach, accolades aren't as important as growth. Growth will take this team to the next level.

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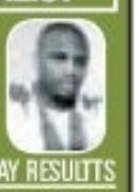

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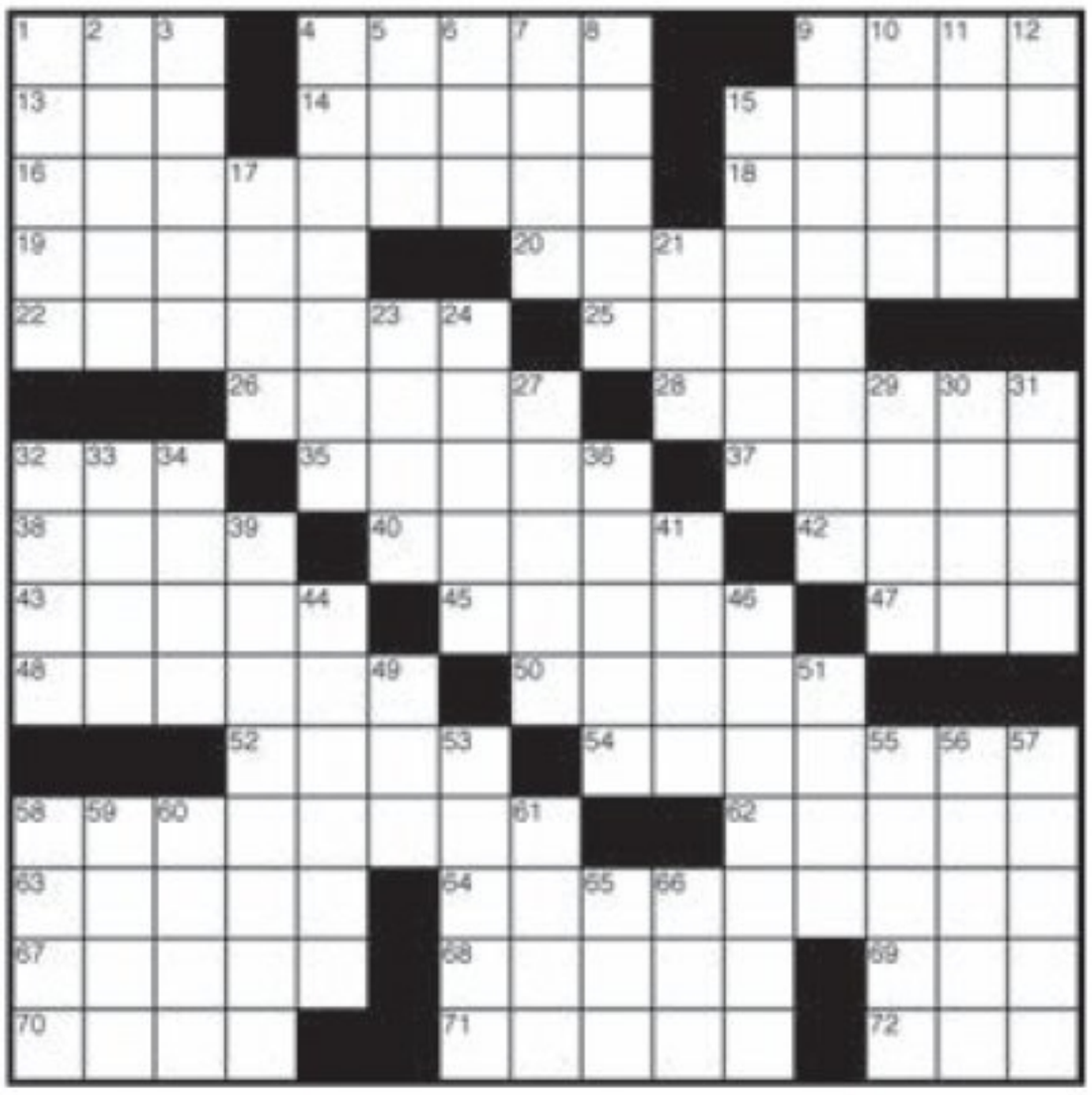

**Across**

1 Cleveland NBAer
4 The whole extent
9 Wingding
13 "The Greatest"
14 Plugged in
15 Girl at a ball
16 Cliff dwellings site (2 wds.)
18 Repair-bill item
19 Look into
20 Wins the joust
22 Cast about
25 Sudden urges
26 "Beowulf" et al.
28 Decrees
32 Bump
35 Teenager
37 Marsh stalker
38 Large-scale
40 Slug cousin
42 Lake Victoria outlet
43 Bar legally
45 Ocean motions
47 Diner order
48 Goober
50 Swings a scythe
52 Herr's spouse
54 Fuji summit
58 Reckoning
62 Supermodel — Campbell
63 Cheapen
64 Funny story (hyph.)
67 Parceled out
68 Hair-raising
69 Foot-pound relative
70 Ballot marks
71 Pony brakes
72 "L.A. Law" star

**metro.us /games**

9 Donuts, in the Wild West (2 wds.)
10 Linen vestments
11 — -eyed
12 Milady's
15 Fair maiden
17 Vigoda and Fortas
21 Start of a bray
23 Id companions
24 Unnerve
27 One kind of flight
29 Cheat sheet
30 Rat on
31 Dele's undoing
32 Cherokee, e.g.
33 Domed recess
34 "Gilda"
36 Goes to earth
39 Bewilders
41 Slope
44 Was a happy cat
46 Mooches
49 "— -Pan"
51 Influence
53 Andretti rival
55 In secret writing
56 Romance in a gondola
57 Kind of bank
58 Notoriety
59 Wild goat
60 Slalom obstacle
61 Clarified butter
65 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
66 — and tonic

**Down**

1 Sleeps in a tent
2 Tip off
3 Eyeshade
4 Collapsed (2 wds.)
5 Dazzle
6 Nick or scratch
7 Language of Pakistan
8 Itty-bitty

# metro.us/sudoku

**easy**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | | | 3 | | | | |
| | 2 | | | | 1 | 9 | | |
| | | | | | | | 2 | 1 |
| | 1 | 9 | 3 | | 7 | | | 8 |
| | 8 | 7 | | | | 5 | 3 | |
| 3 | | | 4 | | 2 | 7 | 1 | |
| 7 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | 1 | | | | 9 | |
| | | | | 6 | | | 5 | 4 |

**hard**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | | 6 | 7 | | 9 | 2 | |
| | | 6 | | 1 | | | 5 | |
| 5 | | | | 8 | 4 | | | |
| | | 7 | | | | | 1 | |
| 9 | | | 7 | | 1 | | | 8 |
| | 5 | | | | | 7 | | |
| | | | 1 | 4 | | | | 2 |
| | 8 | | | 3 | | 4 | | |
| | 3 | 4 | | 2 | 6 | | | 5 |

# metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** Avoid controversy. You have much to gain by wholeheartedly going after your dreams. Discipline and high energy will lead to success. Focus on yourself and your talents.

**Taurus** Emotions will surface. Realign your thinking to overcome any uncertainty that someone is creating. Let intuition be your guide when dealing with people asking for a handout.

**Gemini** An honest approach is best for any deals or situations that put you in a vulnerable position. You don't want to get involved in something that might jeopardize your reputation.

**Cancer** Use your creative imagination in order to come up with unique, beneficial ideas. The help you offer others will lead to unexpected rewards.

**Leo** Take the initiative and follow through with your plans. Actions will speak louder than words and help you avoid criticism. Anyone who doesn't like what you do is probably jealous.

**Virgo** Keep your wits about you when dealing with pushy salespeople. Attend functions that will open your mind to different lifestyles and ways to improve your current situation.

**Libra** A short vacation or making special plans to spend time with someone you love will boost your morale and encourage you to make subtle improvements to your image and appearance.

**Scorpio** Try something totally different. It will encourage you to set new standards and make changes to where or how you live. Romance will enhance your life.

**Sagittarius** Fraternize with like-minded people who could help you achieve your personal goals. A change at home will be comforting and help you alleviate negativity.

**Capricorn** A couple of alterations to your home will give you the perfect setting to encourage your family to spend more time together. Money will come from an unexpected source.

**Aquarius** Consider your options and make personal, financial or health-related changes that will make you feel and look your best. Strive for greater freedom to follow your dreams.

**Pisces** Focus on yourself, not on someone else. You owe it to yourself to live out your dreams and to enjoy opportunities that come your way. Stop putting other people first. EUGENIA LAST

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